



DOCTRINE OF PRE-EMPTION “DESTABILISING”

Conservative MP argues that U.S policies could undermine international law

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The Bush doctrines of pre-emption and regime change could lead to “international anarchy” as countries justify unilateral action in the name of their own values, according to a new pamphlet by Conservative MP Andrew Tyrie. In the Foreign Policy Centre/Bow Group publication he says that he hopes Bush and Blair “don’t mean what they say” about wanting to create a new global order.

In *Axis of instability: America, Britain and the New World Order after Iraq* Tyrie argues that the since September 11 the US has abandoned fifty years of multilateralism of which they were until recently the leading advocates. The new doctrines from the White House will be used by other countries to justify military action with which the West profoundly disagrees - already seen in Putin’s justification of the recent bombing of Georgia. The attempt to reconstruct a world order along the values of the west will also threaten many countries in Africa and the Middle East and encourage nuclear proliferation as states seek to defend themselves from pre-emption. The very different treatment of Iraq and North Korea is sending a “strong and dangerous signal that the means to avoid coercion is to acquire such weapons”, Tyrie warns.

He argues that a surgical strike, such as that which retarded the Iraqi nuclear capability in 1981, might be appropriate in the future, but at present: “the evidence that the Iraqi regime is on the threshold of a nuclear capability has not been forthcoming”. Instead it might “stimulate rather than suppress” terrorism by creating anger in the Muslim world.

Andrew Tyrie MP said:

“If we take at face value what George Bush and Tony Blair have been saying about the need for a new global order, they are making the world a more dangerous place to live. The bedrock of order is the principle “don’t invade my house; I won’t intrude on yours”. Both President Bush’s doctrines and Blairite Salvationist rhetoric are threats to it”

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1. Andrew Tyrie has been Conservative Member of Parliament for Chichester since May 1997.
2. *Axis of instability: Britain, America and the New World Order after Iraq* is published by the Foreign Policy Centre and the Bow Group.
3. The views expressed remain those of the author.
4. While Tyrie's worldview - based on the primacy of non-intervention - is very different from that put forward in our other publications, the Foreign Policy Centre feels that the arguments he makes need to be understood and addressed. In this regard it sits well with John Lloyd's forthcoming pamphlet making the case for intervention